



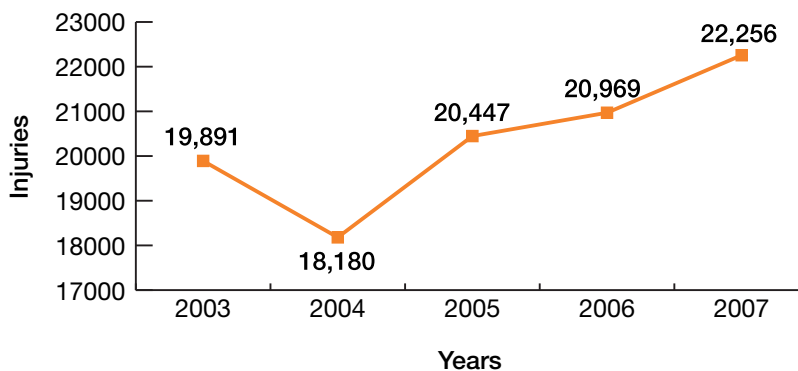
# Shopping Cart Safety



## Key Facts

- More than an estimated 20,000 children under 5 are injured by shopping carts each year.
- Kids can get hurt when they jump or fall from a cart, get pinched in the folding seat, or are hit by a cart.
- Children visit the emergency room with head and brain injuries from shopping carts – in addition to cuts, bruises and broken limbs.

**Shopping Cart-Related Injuries, U.S. 2003-2007, Children Ages 0-5 years**



Source: National Electronic Surveillance System

## Who

- Children 3 and under account for 89% percent of shopping cart-related injuries seen in children 5 years and under.
- One- and two- year olds have the highest incidents of shopping cart-related injuries.
- Boys and girls are equally likely to suffer a shopping cart-related injury (53% versus 47%).

## How

- Falls from shopping carts are among the leading causes of head injuries in young children.

**Shopping Cart-Related Injuries by Body Part Among Children Ages 0-14, 2003-2007**

Body Part	Injuries	Percent
Trunk	236	1%
Foot/Leg	811	4%
Arm/Hand	1,821	9%
Head/Face	17,065	84%
Other	17	<1%

- Among children under 5, the majority of shopping cart injuries are due to falls from the shopping cart. Shopping cart tip-overs and child colliding with (i.e. running into) the shopping cart are other causes of injury.
- Approximately 5% of all shopping cart injuries in children under 5 involved a child falling from/with a car seat placed on the shopping cart.

## **Safety Tips**

When taking your children to the grocery store, take these steps to keep them safe:

- Put your child in a stroller, wagon, or frontpack instead of in a shopping cart.
- Ask your older child to walk and praise him or her for behaving and staying near you.
- Use the shopping carts that have a wheeled child carrier that is permanently attached and made part of the shopping cart. Some of these models look like cars or benches attached to the shopping cart.
- If you're placing your child in the shopping cart seat, always use a harness or safety belt to restrain your child. If the belt is missing or broken, select another cart and tell the store manager so a replacement can be installed.
- Never leave your child alone or unattended in a shopping cart and stay close to the cart at all times.
- Do not let your child ride in the cart basket, under the basket, on the sides or on the front of the cart.
- Don't let an older child push the cart with another younger child in it.
- Never place an infant carrier on top of a shopping cart.

## **Laws and Regulations**

- The American Society for Testing and Materials International (ASTM) has a voluntary standard that includes performance requirements, test methods, and labeling requirements for shopping carts. The ASTM shopping cart standard is intended to cover children who are 6 months to 4 years old and weigh 15 to 35 pounds. Among other things, the standard requires that shopping carts with a child seating area have adjustable child restraint systems with child-resistant buckles or closures. It also requires that each shopping cart include a warning label with pictograms that includes specific safety messages, such as "ALWAYS buckle-up child in cart seat and fasten securely."
- The ASTM standard also requires retailers to inspect and replace broken seat belts and to ensure that every shopping cart remains in good working order. Also the standard suggests that the retailer provide safety information and use safety posters to communicate safe behavior to consumers.
- New York law requires businesses that provide customers with shopping carts to equip and maintain at least 25% of the total number of carts with child protective devices designed to prevent children from falling out of the cart.
- Even in the absence of state laws, some retailers provide shopping cart restraints on all or a portion of their carts.

For more information, please visit  
[http://sk.convio.net/site/DocServer/Shopping\\_Cart\\_Report\\_2003-2007.pdf](http://sk.convio.net/site/DocServer/Shopping_Cart_Report_2003-2007.pdf)  
 or email [info@safekids.org](mailto:info@safekids.org).